

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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R 191605Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5266

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 1539

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, ES

SUBJ: BARGAINING OVER ELECTORAL RESULTS CONTINUES

REF: SAN SALVADOR 1382

1. THE CENTRAL COUNCIL (CCE) HAS ISSUED NO ADDITIONAL DEFINITIVE ELECTION RESULTS SINCE REFTEL. A CCE SOURCE SAID PRIVATELY THAT THE DEPUTIES-ELECT WOULD RECEIVE THEIR CREDENTIALS NEXT WEEK, AN OFT REPEATED PREDICTION THAT HAS A FAMILIAR RING. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE WINNERS (IF NOT THE OFFICIAL VOTE TALLIES) WILL BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY, SINCE THE NEW MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND MAYORS ARE DUE TO TAKE OFFICE ON MAY 1 AND THE DEPUTIES ON JUNE 1. ACCORDING TO A PDC LEADER, THE OUTCOME OF SOME MUNICIPAL RACES IS STILL BEING NEGOTIATED WITH THE CCE. THE GOES IS PROPOSING A TRADE-OFF, OFFERING TO RECOGNIZE UNO VICTORIES IN A MUNICIPALITY IN RETURN FOR UNO'S WITHDRAWAL OF A CHALLENGE TO A PCNVICTORY IN ANOTHER. STILL PDC LEADERS CONCLUDE THAT UNO WILL RECEIVE ONLY A FRACTION OF THE MUNICIPALITIES THAT THEY RIGHTFULLY WON AND PROBABLY WILL TAKE ONLY 15 SEATS IN THE ASSEMBLY.

2. OCCASIONAL PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE GOVT'S HANDLING OF THE ELECTION CONTINUES. PDC LEGISLATIVE DEPUTY RAFAEL VILLACORTA RIVERA CAUTIONED THAT WHILE THE GOES COULD BY FRAUD MAINTAIN CONTROL OF THE ASSEMBLY, IT CMULD NOT HIDE THE FAILURE OFNTHE
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"MOBILE GOVT STRATEGY", WHICH HAD AWAKENED ASPIRATIONS

WHICH GOES HAD NO INTENTION OF FULFILLING. THE TIME HAD
COME, HE WARNED, FOR THE PCN TO CHANGE ITS STRATEGY, PRESUMMABLY
IN THE DIRECTION OF MORE RAPID AND WIDE-SWEEPING REFORM. THE
BISHOP OF SAN VINCENTE ADDED HIS VOICE TO THE CHURCH'S CRITICISM
OF THE ELECTIONS (SEE A-53) WHEN IN HIS EASTER SERMON HE ACCUSED
THE GOES OF STEALING THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION IN SAN VINCENTE. (THE
UNO CANDIDATE THERE WAS AN ACTIVE CATHOLIC LAYMAN WHO IS REPORTEDLY
A CLOSE FRIEND OF THE BISHOP). HIS REMARKS MAY HAVE HAD SOME
IMPACT, FOR ON APRIL 18 THE CCE OVERRULED THE SAN VINCENTE DEPART-
MENTAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL AND DECLARED THE UNO CANDIDATE AS THE
WINNER. BEYOND THE OCCASIONAL CRITICIZM CITED, HOWEVER, THERE
IS LITTLE EVIDENCE OF POPULAR CONCERN OR INTEREST IN THE FINAL
OUTCOME OF THE MARCH 10 CONTEST.
CAMPBELL

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NNN

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